

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15
PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /140 W
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0655

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4261

USOECDD

STATE FOR EB/IFD/BP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: SPECIFIC DUTY TO BE
APPLIED TO IMPORTS OF CERAMIC FLOOR AND WALL TILES

REF: (A) CANBERRA 1554 (B) 76 CANBERRA 7699

1. MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS HAS ANNOUNCED
GOA ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN REPORT OF
TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY (TAA) RESPECTING IMPORTS OF
CERAMIC FLOOR AND WALL TILES. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, A
TEMPORARY SPECIFIC DUTY OF AUST DOLS 1.50 PER SQUARE METER OF
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TILE WILL BE IMPOSED ON ALL UNMOUNTED COLORED SQUARE AND
RECTANGULAR GLAZED TILES NOT THICKER THAN 7 MM AND 5000 SQ.MM
OR MORE IN AREA. THIS DUTY IS IN ADDITION TO PRESENT RATE
OF 30 PER CENT AD VALOREM.

2. NO IMPORTS OF THESE TILES FROM THE U.S. HAVE BEEN
RECORDED.

3. QUESTION ON NEED FOR LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL INDUSTRY HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.

4. TAA REPORT BEING SENT AS PER STANDING INSTRUCTIONS.

5. COMMENT: TAA DID NOT CONSIDER THAT A CASE FOR PROTECTION AGAINST IMPORTS OF MOSAIC AND SOME OTHER TILES COVERED BY THE REFERENCE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AND STATED IN ITS REPORT THAT THE INDUSTRY'S TROUBLES STEMMED FROM ITS FAILURE TO MEET CONSUMER PREFERENCES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF TILES. THIS HAD CAUSED ITS MARKET SHARE TO FALL FROM 42 PER CENT IN FY75 TO 33 PER CENT IN FY76. TAA DID FIND, HOWEVER, THAT SOME TEMPORARY PROTECTION AGAINST IMPORTS OF COLORED SQUARE AND RECTANGULAR TILES WAS WARRANTED BUT CONSIDERED THAT THE INDISCRIMINATE IMPOSITION OF RIGID QUOTAS AND HIGHER TARIFFS ACROSS-THE-BOARD COULD CAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND INSTALLATION INDUSTRY, AND WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE EFFECTIVE IN DIRECTING CONSUMER PREFERENCES TO THE LOCAL PRODUCT. TAA CONSIDERED THAT THE TEMPORARY SPECIFIC DUTY RATE ON UNMOUNTED COLORED SQUARE AND RECTANGULAR TILES WOULD PERMIT LOCAL PRODUCERS TO INCREASE THEIR SALES WITHOUT PLACING AN UNNECESSARY BURDEN ON THE CONSUMER, AND WOULD PROVIDE A BASE TO RESTRUCTURE THEIR OPERATIONS TO PRODUCE TILES TO SUIT CONSUMER DEMAND.
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Disposition Event:
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